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1534 **Somervel** (Mary) Display of the Condescension of God in her Spiritual Experiences, from her MS., sm. 8vo, *quarter calf, neat*, 2s 6d *Glasgow*, 1770

MS

A

Clear and Remarkable

DISPLAY

OF THE

CONDESCENSION, LOVE and FAITHFULNESS of GOD,

IN THE

SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES

OF

MARY SOMERVEL.

WHEREIN IS SHEWN,

Her near access to the throne of grace: her remarkable discoveries and sweet enjoyment of true love of God; the sensible and particular returns of prayer she received; as also her personal engagements to the Lord.

Printed from her own Manuscript.

Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul. Psal. lxiv 16.

O taste and see that the Lord is good! blessed is the man that trusteth in him. Psal xxxiv. 8.

GLASGOW:

Printed by ROBERT and THOMAS DUNCAN, and sold at their Shop, Pope's Head, Salt-market, 1770.

B L 30.6.83

To the Serious

READER.

THE following ſheets contain part of the religious exerciſes and experiences of Mary Somervel, who was born in the pariſh of Culton in the ſhire of Ayr, Her Father, Hugh Somervel, dying while ſhe was very young, left her Mother with the heavy charge of her and other four children, and being a ſtrict adherer to the covenanted work of reformation ſhe had the additional affliction of being turned out of the farm which her huſband left her in poſſeſſion of. and of being haraſs'd and purſued upon the mountains, thro' the violence of the perſecuting party. She did not long ſurvive her huſband; for we find that Mary was at ſervice, and deprived of both Father and Mother by the time ſhe was ten years of age.

Several years after this, MARY took ſervice in the town of Ayr, where ſhe happened with the misfortune of bruiſing her foot with a door, which turned into a kind of ſcrophulous ulcer, and afflicted her ſeven years. She continued in Ayr during the remainder of her life, and died about the end of January 1762, aged 84 years, or upwards.

She was a woman much afflicted with bodily trouble, but this was abundantly compenſated by the near acceſs ſhe had to her Maker, and the joyful intimations of his love. She found to her experience that it was good for her to be afflicted, and was fully perſuaded that her ſhort afflictions which were but for a moment wrought for her a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. Nothing could diſcompoſe or trouble her pertaining to this life, whilſt her evidences were clear for the life to come; but when theſe were clouded, ſhe could find no reſt nor ſatisfaction, till ſhe received the renewed intimations of God's

God's favour, which was better to her than life.

She was taught of God from her very youth, and ſeemed remarkably to grow in the ſpiritual life as ſhe advanced in years. She obtained ſuch raviſhing foretaſtes of the heavenly happineſs as often over-powered her frail mortal body, and made her cry out, 'Lord, hold thy hand, 'for I am but a clay veſſel.'

In all her ways ſhe acknowleged and conſulted the Lord, who gave her ſuch particular and ſenſible anſwers of prayer, as fully determined and ſatisfied her mind.

Her exerciſe was not confined to her own particular caſe; but the public cauſe of God and his church la near her heart. Altho' ſhe favoured the covenanted work of reformation; yet ſhe never left the eſtabliſhed church; but died in hopes that the Lord would yet return in mercy to theſe lands, and build up the walls of Jeruſalem.

The following ſheets are copied from her own manuſcript, which

ſhe delivered to her nephew JOHN SOMERVEL (who is now living in Glaſgow) ſometime before ſhe died, with ſtrict charge that he ſhould publiſh it after her death; for ſhe had promiſed to the Lord to ſhew forth his wonderful love and condeſcenſion to her, for the glory of his name, and the encouragement of his people.

There has no liberties been taken in correcting of it but what are entirely circumſtantial, and her own phraſeology has been carefully retain'd, excepting in flat repetitions, or where it marr'd the conſtruction.

Come then all ye that fear the Lord, and ſee what he hath done for her ſoul. And may the Lord grant you that ſpiritual frame and joyful experience in the peruſal, which ſhe had in writing of it.

THE

THE SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES OF MARY SOMERVEL.

OBSERVATION I.

WHEN I was but very young, the Lord opened the door of my heart, and captivated my affections to himself: the good and kind Lord has been my God and my guide from my mother's womb, by him I have been taught from a child. Ever bleſſed be the Lord, who ſhow'd me his marvellous loving kindneſs; he is my ſhield and my ſtrength, and is become my ſalvation, and I am helped; hence my ſoul doth magnify the Lord, and my ſpirit doth rejoice in God my Saviour.

I remember when I was about five years of age, one day in the morning I fell exceeding hungry, to ſuch a degree that I never felt the like all my life. It was ordinary in my

my father's houſe to go about family worſhip immediately before breakfaſt; and that morning I wiſhed earneſtly in my heart, that worſhip might be delayed, till breakfaſt was over, that I might get meat, for I thought to have died of hunger; nor durſt I ask any victuals from my mother till the reſt of the family got theirs. When the family were conveened, they proceeded firſt (as uſual) to worſhip, which gave me no ſmall uneaſineſs and made me earneſtly wiſh they might diſpatch it quickly. But all on a ſudden the Lord drew my attention from temporal food, and ſurpriſed me with ſuch joy and delight in the time of ſinging the Pſalms, that I ſaid within myſelf, O that they would ſing an hour, I felt ſuch ſweetneſs joy and pleaſure in the exerciſe of praiſe, that I had no deſire for bodily food that day. This is my firſt obſervation of the ſpecial grace and mercy of God to unworthy me. Gratitude requires I ſhould remember it with thankſgiving, and proclaim his condeſcenſion and ſovereign goodneſs, who viſited me ſo early in my young and tender years. Thus out of the mouth of babes and ſucklings he ordaineth ſtrength and perfects praiſe. The Lord by this inſtructed me experimentally how good and pleaſant a thing it was to be employed in the duties of religion; yea, that it was more ſo, than all the ſatisfaction that earthly enjoyments can afford. He likewiſe ſubdued in a great meaſure the rebellion of my nature, and inclined my heart

to

to fear him; ſo that from this time, even from five years of age, I had ſtill a warm affection to religion. To his bleſſed name be the praiſe time without end. O praiſe to his holy name who gave me the ſweet renewed impreſſions of this from time to time in my riper years. My record is in heaven and my witneſs is on high; to him be the glory.

Mary Somervel.

OBSERVATION II.

WHEN I was about ten years of age, I remember the Lord in kind love gave me a moſt ſweet and refreſhing viſit and manifeſtation of himſelf. I was then a very poor and deſtitute orphan without father or mother, but bleſſed forever be the Lord who made good that word to me, Pſal. 27. 10.

Tho' me my parents both ſhould leave,
the Lord will me uptake.

At this time I was engaged in my poor weak prayers at night by the ſide of the houſe without, when the reſt were in bed; the night was pretty dark, there being no light but what the ſtars afforded, which together with the temptations of Satan, created ſome timorouſneſs upon my ſpirit, this was increaſed by the appearance of ſome black thing which came rolling on the ground towards me As I endeavoured to pray unto the Lord to keep me, I looked up to the

heavens, and there preſented to my ſight a very bright ſtar, upon which I fixed mine eyes with pleaſure and delight; ſo that in a moment every frightful phantom vaniſhed from my mind, and I was no more afraid of Satan, my ſoul was ſo filled with the ſweet impreſſions of the love of God. There came ſuch a ſweet gale of the ſpirit, with light, life, love and power on my ſoul accompanied with ſweet inlargement in prayer, that love and affection went up on the wings of deſire to the higher houſe, where my heart and ſoul was loſt (as it were) in raviſhment and extaſy, inſomuch that I could very gladly have laid down my body that hour in the duſt that I might attain the immediate and full enjoyment of that whereof I had ſuch a raviſhing foretaſte. While I was praying, the glory and beauty of the higher houſe was emblematically held forth to me in the ſhining ſplendor of that ſtar, which ſhined ſo bright upon my face that I apprehended part of the ſky did open and preſent ſuch a dazzling proſpect as raviſh'd my heart and excited earneſt deſires to depart this life that I might be ever with the Lord. Here I enjoyed ſuch a foretaſte of heaven and of the powers of the world to come that I have oftentimes ſince taken pleaſure in looking to the twinkling ſtars, and they have afforded me matter of meditation on the glory and light which is beyond and above them.

After

After this ſweet enjoyment, I had for a long time little or no deſire for my neceſſary food, through the intenſe longing that I had to be abſent from the body that I might be preſent with the Lord, which at laſt affected my bodily conſtitution, ſo that I appeared conſumptive. My maſter and miſtreſs obſerved my want of appetite and took care of me (for the Lord had thrown my lot into a very religious family) but they did not underſtand my trouble. My miſtreſs asked me now and then, what ailed me: Sometimes I repleyed nothing, at other times I ſaid I was not very well. When they ſaw I ſtill decayed in my body, they employed a phyſician but to no purpoſe for he did not take up my diſeaſe. But the good and kind God condeſcended to be my phyſician and in due time removed my trouble. That night it pleaſed the Lord to favour me with a ſweet and ſenſible return of prayer, and my reſt was more than ordinary ſweet to me, and in the morning I awaked with a ſweet ſavour and refreſhful ſenſe of God's favour upon my ſpirit; I was, as it were, in a tranſport of joy. O what ſhall I ſay! for wiſdom's ways are ways of pleaſantneſs, and all her paths are peace. The paths of the Lord hath dropped much ſweetneſs to my ſoul: from a child I have obſerved it, to his bleſſed name be the praiſe.

From this time forth the Lord inclined me to learn to read and know the ſcriptures particularly

particularly, and warmed my affections to them. He likewiſe weaned my heart from the world by imbittering the comforts of it with the rod of affliction; for which I have cauſe to bleſs h[illegible] with ſoul and heart. O let his name be bleſſed for ever and ever for his condeſcending love to my ſoul?

O let the Lord our gracious God
for ever bleſſed be,
Who turned not my prayer from him,
nor yet his grace from me. Pſal. lxvi. 20.

Mary Somervel.

OBSERVATION III.

SEveral years after this I was admitted to partake of the Lord's ſupper, in the year 1719, at Affleck. The week before the ſacrament I was diſappointed of a token in Kilmarnock by the ſecret hand of providence, which put me to my utmoſt diligence to know the mind of God in this matter, for I was conſcious of having omitted nothing of outward order; therefore I feared greatly that matters were fundamentally wrong betwixt God and my ſoul, and that I was not right in heart with God. This was a very ſharp ſpur which put me to the utmoſt of my endeavours in duty to know the reaſon of this diſappointment and get my evidences cleared up But praiſe be to him who ordered it ſo; for at that time I obtained ſweet refreſhment from the preſence

of

of the Lord, who alſo ſhewed me that this would be among the *all* things that ſhould work together for my good accordingly on the Sabbath morning, I found to my ſweet experience, that tho' I was deprived of the outward token by man at this time, yet Chriſt was not wanting in giving me the inward ſeal of his holy Spirit in a moſt clear and diſtinct manner. This token of his love to my ſoul put more than an ordinary edge upon my ſpirit, and excited hungering and longing deſires after communion with Chriſt in the ſupper, which was to be adminiſtred next Sabbath in Affleck. Had I not been diſappointed of the ſacrament in Kilmarnock it is very probable I would not have gone to Affleck; but here it ſeems the Lord had fixed his tryſting place with my ſoul, for on this occaſion I found him whom my ſoul loveth, I held him and would not let him go, until he brought me to the banqueting houſe, where his banner over me was love. This was a time to be had in remembrance by me with humble thankſgiving to God while I live. O what love and grace did the Lord diſplay to my ſoul at this time! I found a ſweet perfume of the ſpirit accompany the word preach'd from Heb. x. 22. 'Let us draw near to God with 'a true heart, in full aſſurance of faith, hav-'ing our hearts ſprinkled from an evil 'conſcience, and our bodies waſhed with 'pure water.' From whence was ſhown the free and gracious terms upon which

God accepted of returning and repenting ſinners; the evidences of a true and lively faith, and the manner how to get and maintain communion and fellowſhip with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Upon the Saturday before the cloſe of the work, I was brim-full of the conſolations of God, ſo that my crazie clay veſſel could hold no more! and not being able to contain, I longed for a place where I might pour out my heart in Chriſt's boſom.

When the public work was ended, I had no thought about quarters, tho' I was a ſtranger in that place, but went down to a wood a little below the Church, and there retired myſelf in ſecret for a conſiderable time. I was endeavouring to give God thanks for what of his great goodneſ I had received; and being ſenſible I could not keep what he had given me, I thought it beſt to commit it to him who was able to keep it, and beſtow it in the time of my greateſt need

Being ſurrounded by the thick buſhes of the wood, the night came on e'er I was aware, and not having beſpoke quarters, I wiſt not now what to do: there was no moon light till midnight, and I could not walk in the dark by reaſon of my lame foot, beſides I was afraid either of loſing or diſcovering to others the ſweet impreſſions that were upon my ſpirits, nor was I as yet willing to break up my ſweet intercourſe with God in ſecret (which was better to me in a dark

and

and lonely wood, than the moſt delicious entertainment of a ſumptuous palace). Theſe things conſidered I was willing to abide all night in the wood; but firſt I addreſt the throne of grace to know the mind of God herein, leſt hereby I ſhould tempt Providence; but it pleaſed the Lord to confirm my faith in his protecting goodneſs by the following ſcriptures, Pſal: xci. 3. 'Surely 'he ſhall deliver thee,'——ver 6. 'Thou 'ſhalt not be afraid for the terrors by night.' And Heb. xiii 5, 6.—'for he hath ſaid, I 'will never leave thee nor forſake thee. So 'that we may boldly ſay, The Lord is my 'helper, and I will not fear'——I thought I had faith in God's word, and with tears expreſſed myſelf thus, Lord if my heart deceive me not, I think I have faith to believe thro' thy dear Son Jeſus Chriſt thou will keep me here in this deſert wood from all evil as well as in any houſe. So I contented myſelf, and thought to go about prayer; but Satan, who is ever buſy aſſaulted me with ſuggeſting that my faith was only preſumption. This put me to a ſtand a little; but falling down upon my knees before the Lord, I requeſted with tears to know whether the caſe was really with me as the enemy had ſuggeſted; and the Lord hearkened to my plaint, and relieved me out of my diſtreſs, by ſhowing me that his † faithfulneſs would

† It is ill contending with the accuſer when the queſtion is about our own faith, or any inherent

would be a ſhield and buckler unto me. I then reſolved to risk myſelf upon the faithfulneſs of God in ſpite of all that the enemy could do, and that I would truſt in the Lord and ſhelter myſelf under the ſhadow of his wings. So I went on in prayer with ſweet inlargement of heart, and a full gale of the ſpirit O the ſweet fellowſhip and communion I had this night with the Father and with his ſon Jeſus Chriſt? I was ſo ſwallow'd up, that I continued in prayer for the ſpace of two hours without intermiſſion, having acceſs unto God, and being entertained in his preſence; I was filled with joy and peace in believing, and my heart was melted like wax in the midſt of my bowels; thus or e'er I was aware my ſoul ſet me on the chariots of a willing people, Song 6, 12. *marg.* I was then ſaying with the diſciples, on the mount, Lord, it is good to be here, where I can pray and believe, believe and rejoice, rejoice and love, love and admire, admire and adore, adore and delight in God as my portion without interruption About three o'Clock in the morning, I heard the noiſe of wild creatures, but was not in the leaſt afraid for I had ſet my hope in God, and was not aſhamed;

grace; for if we know the deceitfulneſs of our own hearts, it cannot but mar our confidence to plead on their behalf. Accordingly we find that this pious woman was not relieved by a direct anſwer to her petition, or a diſcovery of the genuinneſs of her faith, but by what was infinitely better, *viz.* a view of the faithfulneſs of the unchangeable God.

ſhamed; in him I found quiet repoſe, having made my bed amongſt the ſweet promiſes of his bleſſed word Sometime before day I turned a little drowſy, I then wrapped my head in my mantle, and lay down under a buſh to reſt, having the heavens for my covering, the earth for my bed, the trees of the wood for my curtains, and the wings of the Almighty for my ſhade. This I may ſay from ſweet experience, that one day or night in the preſence of the Lord is better than a thouſand elſewhere. O but wiſdoms ways are ways of pleaſantneſs, and all her paths are peace! O happy and well choſen diſappointment, which put me to my utmoſt diligence to find out the old leaven? I cry'd with bitter tears, O Lord, what I know not teach thou me, and what I ſee not ſearch thou out; let me know the particular ſin that ſtands in the way, that I may be ſuitably humbled for it, and thro' grace be more watchful in time to come. I promiſed to God, that if he would be pleaſed to ſhew me the way he was now taking with me, and let me find grace in his ſight, ſo as I might have an open door of acceſs to, and acceptance with him, then I would ſhew forth this to his praiſe. I likewiſe intreated the Lord to pardon my ſin, and intimate the pardon to my ſoul. I have both pardoned and I will pardon alſo, ſaith the Lord; I have heard thy prayers, I have ſeen thy tears, and they are had in remembrance before me. O ſtupenduous love!

On

On the Sabbath day the action ſermon was preached from Song iii. 2 'Go forth O ye 'daughters of Zion, and behold king Solomon 'with the crown wherewith his mother crown-'ed him in the day of his eſpouſals, and in the 'day of the gladneſs of his heart.' From theſe 'words the miniſter exhorted the people, even all Chriſt's followers, to go forth and ſet the crown on Chriſt's head, ‡ and make his heart glad to day. My ſoul was well pleaſed to go with the daughters of Zion to ſet the crown upon Chriſt's head; ſo I longed to ſit down at his holy table: My faith was ſtrengthned, my love inflamed, the ſpirit of grace and ſupplication was poured down, and all my bones were made to ſay, O Lord, who is like unto thee? That word came with energy upon my ſoul, All things are yours, life is yours, death is yours. O what ſhall I ſay? the grace and kindneſs of God to my ſoul was inexpreſſible, and the thouſandth part of his love to me cannot be told: He brought me into the banqueting houſe, and his banner over me was love; I ſat under his ſhadow with great delight, and his fruit was ſweet to my taſte. On Monday all this was renewed to my ſoul in hearing Mr. Lockhart miniſter in Ochiltree; he inſiſted much on communion and fellowſhip with the Father and his ſon Jeſus Chriſt, and how to obtain

‡ This muſt be underſtood of our truſting in, ſubjecting to, and of our honouring and owning him as our king.

obtain and maintain communion; as alſo how to know real communion in its weaker degrees. This was very ſweet and refreſhing to me. But what can I ſay more! All the Lord's way with me hath been mercy, truth and faithfulneſs. As I had promiſed on this condition, that I would ſhew it forth to his praiſe: ſo I leave it on record to the glory of his bleſſed name;

And bleſſed be his glorious name
to all eternity;
The whole earth let his glory fill.
Amen. *So let it be.*

Mary Somervel.

Her Covenant ENGAGEMENTS.

I Do this day covenant with thee, O God, and avouch thee the Lord to be my God. Thou haſt diſcovered to me the wretchedneſs and miſery of my ſinful ſtate, and the vanity of all pleaſures here below; and haſt likewiſe made me to ſee that Jeſus Chriſt, the ever bleſſed mediator, is able to ſave to the uttermoſt of all that come unto thee thro' him. Being then weary of a body of ſin and death, and groaning for deliverance from it, I come to thee, O Lord, haſt thou not bidden the weary and the heavy laden'd to come unto thee that they may find reſt to their ſouls? O Lord I come unto thee with my weary and burdened ſoul, that I may find reſt, and ſo take on thy yoke

yoke which is eaſy. and thy burden which
light. There is little reſt here in this milita
ſtate; but thou haſt ſpoken of a reſt that r
mains for thy people, may my weary and ſi
ſick ſoul by believing enter into this reſt, a
have the ſweet earneſt and foretaſte of that
ternal reſt which remains for thy choſen. F
eye hath not ſeen, nor ear heard, neither ha
it entered into the heart of man to concei
what thou haſt laid up for them that fear a
love thee. O Lord, I come to thee, and
all that I am, and all that I have to be at th
diſpoſal. I am well pleaſed with the bleſſ
device of ſalvation thro' a Redeemer, and
with all my heart aecept of Chriſt as he is
ferod fully and freely in the goſpel. I do
cept of him as a prophet to remove my ign
rance and inſtruct me in thy will and way:
a prieſt to intercede with thee and plead m
cauſe, and ſtand betwixt me and offended ju
tice; and as a king to conquer and ſubdue m
will to thine, to reign in me and over me, a
to protect and defend me from the aſſaults
the enemy I take him for my Lord and law
giver, to rule and inſtruct, as well as to ſave m
O God and Father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt,
deſire in thy ſtrength to make covenant wit
thee, who haſt promiſed that he that comet
to thee thou wilt in no wiſe caſt out. I th
day, without any known guile, give up myſe
to be thine, and heartily accept of thee
Chriſt, and my God and King, my father a
friend, my ſatisfying portion and exceedin
gre

at reward. O ſet me as a ſeal upon thine
rt and as a ſeal upon thine arm. Make out
t ſweet word to me upon which thou haſt
uſed me to hope, Hoſea 2, 19, 20. 'I will
etrothe thee unto me in righteouſneſs and
aithfulneſs, and loving-kindneſs, and thou
halt know the Lord.' O let it be a done bar-
n this day betwixt thee and my ſoul. Thou
t encouraged me with many ſweet anſwers
prayer, to confirm me in the faith of thy
ve to my ſoul. O how have I been made to
onder at, and admire thy free love notwith-
nding of all the miſcarriages of my wicked
art? Yea, I muſt ſay it to the praiſe of thy
eſſed name, that thy words were found of
e and I did eat them, and they became the
y and rejoicing of my heart. In ſickneſs
d diſtreſs, when apparently nigh the gates of
ath, thou haſt ſupported and feaſted my ſoul
th tokens of thy love, ſo that my heart did
it were leap for joy and peace in believing.
he ſweet promiſes of thy word have revived
d ſtrengthned my weak and low ſpirits, and
t more joy in my heart, than others can ob-
in in the abundance of corn and wine Haſt
ou not applied to my ſoul theſe ſweet promiſ-
, 'I have loved thee with an everlaſting love,
therefore with loving-kindneſs have I drawn
thee.' Jer. 31. 3. 'I have ſet before thee
an open door that no man can ſhut,' Rev. 3.
Alſo when I was ſore bowed down, didſt thou
ot ſend that word to my relief, 'Unto you
that fear my name ſhall the ſun of righteouſ-

'neſs

'neſs ariſe with healing in his wings, and ye
'ſhall grow up as calves in the ſtall.' Mal. 4
'2. 'The path of the juſt ſhall ſhine more
'and more unto the perfect day,' Prov. v. 18
O ſtupenduous and adorable love! I will praiſe
thee forever becauſe thou haſt done this. O
Lord I beſeech thee then to own me as thy
covenanted child; and may I by daily experi-
ence of thy favour know, that not only poor
unworthy I have covenanted with thee; but
that thou haſt condeſcended to make with me
an everlaſting covenant ordered in all things
and ſure, never to be forgotten nor revoked.
Lord, this is all my deſire and all my ſalvation
I call heaven and earth to record this day, and
the ſtones and timber of the houſe wherein I
dwell, yea thou Lord art my witneſs, who will
ſhortly be my judge; that I, without any known
guile or reſervation, do give up myſelf to be
thine in a marriage covenant never to be for-
gotten: I give in a proteſtation againſt all my
former idols and luſts, and every thing that
takes up Chriſt's room in my ſoul. And now,
O my God, may thy grace be ſufficient for me,
that having made my vows I may each day
perform the ſame. O ſave thou me from a-
poſtatiſing from the rule of thy holy law, by
which I am to walk; but enable me to ſtand
to thy truths as they are contained in the Old
and New Teſtaments. O Lord, I beg of thee
the aſſiſtance of thy holy Spirit to renew me af-
ter thy image, and bend my will to thine; may
he communicate to me light, ſtrength and life

for

for the performance of the duties of religion, and awaken and excite the lively and vigorous exerciſe of every gracious diſpoſition in my ſoul, that ſo thy ſervice may no longer be a wearineſs and burden to me (as too often it has been) but become my joy, pleaſure and delight. O let thy ſtrength be perfected in my weakneſs, that ſo I may never yield to Satan's temptations! Thro' the frailty of my fleſh I am ſubject to many failings; yet I hope diſſallowed miſcarriages ſhall not make void this covenant: for now I may humbly ſay, thro' the help of thy grace, 'I know whom I have 'believed, and am perſuaded he is able to keep 'that which I have committed to him againſt 'that day,' 2 Tim. 1. 12. In the faith of this, I give up myſelf to thee and to thy ſervice in time and thro' eternity: all that I have, and all that I am, I devote to thee. O do thou nail mine ears to the poſts of thy doors, that I may ſtill be with thee, and ſerve thee for ever. I again call heaven to record this day, that I do earneſtly and ſincerely, even with all my heart, and ſoul, and ſtrength and mind, take the Lord Jehovah, Father, Son and Holy Ghoſt to be my God and King, and I his ſolemnly ſworn ſubject, ſubſcribe myſelf the Lord's with my hand,

At Ayr, the 17th of Feb. 1722. } Mary Somervel.

O B.

OBSERVATION IV.

I Remember, in the year 1723, there was an extraordinary mortality amongſt children by reaſon of the ſmall pox, ſo that not a day paſt without one, two or three burials. This put more than an ordinary edge upon my ſpirit in prayer, and weighted me greatly with concern for their immortal ſouls; and the rather, as I obſerved ſeveral parents very little concerned about their children in this reſpect. Whilſt I was thus employed for theſe children, the Lord gave me ſweet refreſhment for myſelf and alſo comfortable returns of prayer in behalf of ſome of them. I ſhall give ſome inſtances; for two children in one family, that word came, 'They are plants of the covenant, 'their angel ſhall always behold the face of my 'father.' For another, She ſhall be mine in 'that day when I make up my jewels.' For 'another, 'He ſhall be as a brand plucked out 'of the furnace.' For another. 'He is one of 'the children that cryeth Hoſannah in the tem-'ple, and ſhall be girded with a linen ephod 'when he goeth into the temple of the Lord.' For another, 'His blood ſhall be dear and pre-'cious in my ſight; I have found a ranſom for 'him; I have reſcued his ſoul from going 'down into the pit.' And for another, 'She 'ſhall land within the ports of glory alſo the 'child ſhall die an hundred years old.' Alſo 'that word came with power, 'Bleſſed is ſhe

'that

'that believeth, for there ſhall be a perfor-
'mance of theſe things that were told her
'from the Lord.' * I may freely ſay that I never found duty go better with me than when I was moſt concerned for the afflicted caſe of others: to God be the praiſe and glory.

It pleaſed the Lord for the ſpace of three years, to afflict me often with colicks in my ſtomach at the ſame time I was troubled with my ſore foot, which was ſeven years ere it healed. In the laſt of the three years in which I was troubled with the colicks, I was ſo grievouſly ſeized with one, that I was ſcarcely able to ſpeak; and as any little means I had formerly uſed were now of no avail, I concluded that death would be my only relief. The miniſter and two elders prayed for me; and a phyſician being ſent for, he aſked me what I would have, ſeeing my caſe was ſo dangerous?

* Perhaps theſe returns of prayer may be obnoxious to the cavils of modern profeſſors, who affect to be more judicious, and who under the notion of enthuſiaſm would baniſh every intimation of the Lord's mind that cannot be reduced to a logical ſyllogiſm. But let theſe take care how they condemn what they do not underſtand. It is true, extraordinary and infallible revelation is now ceaſed becauſe the ſcriptures are now completed; but ſhall we therefore deny that God may converſe intimately and ſupernaturally, with the ſouls of his people by means of theſe ſcriptures? Is it not ſtill the office of the Holy Ghoſt to take of the things of Chriſt and ſhew them to his ſaints, and to reveal unto babes what may be hid from the wiſe and prudent?

'Tis true indeed, the particular anſwer of any

I desired him to hold up my case to God in prayer, who only could be my physician; so he prayed and went away. Then another elder came in, and asked me some questions about salvation matters such as, In what state was I born, and how I expected deliverance from that state of sin and misery? But my trouble was so great, I could scarcely make any reply; but as I endeavoured thro' much difficulty to speak, I found secret strength conveyed to my heart whereby I was enabled to speak more freely and answered what was required of me. Then he went to prayer, in which he was helped to much tenderness, liveliness and concern. In the time of prayer I was assisted to hear, and when it ended I thought I was quite whole. The good and gracious God was a prayer hearing and a prayer answering God on my behalf, for he came and removed my pains, and healed me of my disease that night about midnight. At that time I was inclining to rest, and that word came, 'The sun of righteousness will arise with healing in his wings;' so the blessed Samaritan was pleased to come my way and pour in oil,

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man's prayer can be no rule of faith or practice to another; neither can every scripture coming into a person's mind be constructed as an answer of prayer; yet still it is the particular priviledge of the children of God to obtain returns; and the Holy Ghost is sufficiently able to distinguish to them the voice of God in his word from that of a stranger, or their own imagination, tho' perhaps they cannot demonstrate this to the satisfaction of others.

binding up my wounds, and looſing the bonds of my affliction. The good phyſician came with his healing medicine, and I felt as it were a tender hand ſpreading a broad covering over my pain: alſo it was whiſpered in my ear, Am I not a covering broad enough for the ſore; At that time I was muſing and lying on my back; my pain was ſo great I could not turn to my ſide; but immediately finding myſelf whole, I turned to my ſide to ſee if the pain was quite removed, and found it really ſo. Alſo I found a more than uſual refreſhment of ſpirit from the preſence of the Lord, ſo that both my ſoul and body partook of his healing balſam; to his name be the praiſe. From ſweet experience I can ſay, my God is my phyſician, for by his own immediate hand, I was relieved from that ſore trouble, which never return'd again. O let the name of the Lord be bleſſed! How can I but give praiſes to him,

Who my diſeaſes all and pains,
did heal, and me relieve.

I leave it then on record to his praiſe, as an inſtance of his great condecenſion and love to ſinful me.

MARY SOMERVEL.

The Renewal of her COVENANT ENGAGEMENTS.

O Bleſſed Lord God, I deſire in thy ſtrength to renew my former engagements to thee this day, in the ſenſe of thy ma-

ny mercies daily renewed to my ſoul, and of the many confirmations thou haſt given me of thy love through Jeſus Chriſt and likewiſe under a ſenſe of my many failings and ſhort-comings, particularly in point of praiſe and thankſgiving for thy goodneſs, who haſt been a preſent help to me in time of need. I likewiſe come to thee under a ſenſe of my backſlidings, for thou haſt bidden backſliding children return unto thee, for thou art married unto them. This indeed is a faithful ſaying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Chriſt Jeſus came to ſeek and ſave ſinners, even the very chief ſuch as I am. Thou haſt called me by thy ſweet word, 'Hearken, O daughter, and 'incline thine ear and conſider and forget alſo 'thine own people and father's houſe; ſo ſhall 'the King greatly deſire thy beauty: he is 'thy Lord, and worſhip thou him.' Alſo thou ſent that word with great life and power 'Incline thine ear and come unto me; hear, 'and your ſouls ſhall live, and I will make an 'everlaſting covenant with you, even the ſure 'mercies of David.' O! that I could praiſe thee, who haſt encouraged me, and given me many ſweet anſwers of prayer. In the day when I cry'd thou anſweredſt me, and ſtrengthenedſt me with ſtrength in my ſoul. I will praiſe thee, O Lord, becauſe thou haſt done this. Bleſſed be thy name who haſt made known to me the ways of life, and made me full of joy with the light of thy countenance. I will employ my heart and tongue to magnify

thee O Lord, because thy tendering shall be me, exceed all thy other works. Thy loving kindness is marvellous, and that my soul knoweth right well! How often have I been made to admire thy free love shining bright in the face of Christ to me ward! When my soul was cast down in me, and my mind sunk under discouragement; when I thought I was cast off and forgot, and that there was no profit in my life, then thou sent thy sweet word for my relief, and said to my soul, 'Daughter be of good 'cheer, thy sins are forgiven thee. I, even I 'am he that blotteth out thy transgressions, 'for mine own sake, and will not remember thy 'sins. Put me in remembrance, let us plead 'together, declare thou that thou mayst be 'justified.' Isa. 43. 25, 26. O stupenduous love! Thou hast made out that scripture to my sweet experience, 'I will allure her and bring 'her into the wilderness, and speak comfort-'ably to her.' Hos. 2. 14. When under sore affliction of body and mind, thou cameſt seasonably for my support, and comfortedst my soul with these sweet scriptures, 'When thou 'passest thro' the waters, I will be with thee, 'and thro' the rivers, they shall not overflow 'thee; and when thou walkest thro' the fire 'thou shalt not be burned.' Isa. 43. 2. 'I 'have refined thee, but not with silver; I 'have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.' Isa. 48. 10. 'O, my dove that art in the clefts 'of the rock, in the secret places of the stairs, 'let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy

'...ce; for sweet is thy voice, and thy coun-
'tenance is comely,' Song 2 14. 'Come
'with me from Lebanon, my spouse, with me
'from Lebanon: look from the top of Ama-
'na,' &c. Chap. 4. 8. Thus by the light of thy Spirit accompanying thy word, my heart has been refreshed, and my soul ravished.

Again, when I fell under deadness and darkness, and walked without the light of the sun, then I cry'd unto thee, my leanness, my leanness. O Lord, what profit is in my blood if I go down to the pit? Save me, O Lord, for the waters are come in unto my soul. Let my prayer come before thee, incline thine ear unto my cry, for my soul is full of trouble, and my life draweth near the grave. The clamours of a doubting conscience on the one hand, and the call of seemingly approaching death on the other, made deep call unto deep, and thy billows pass over me. Thou hast hid thy face and I am troubled. O Lord, wilt thou shew wonders to the dead? Shall they rise and give thee praise? Thus while I uttered my mournful plaint, thou sent that sweet refreshing word, 'I have set thee as a seal upon
'my heart, and as a seal upon my arm; I have
'engraven thee upon the palms of my hands,
'and will not forget thee.' Also these confirming scriptures came, 'For thy Maker is
'thy husband, the Lord of hosts is his name;
'the God of the whole earth shall he be cal-
'led,' Isa. 54. 9. 'Thy Sun shall no more go
'down, the Lord shall be thine everlasting

'light, and the days of thy mourning ſhall be 'ended, and thy God ſhall be thy glory. Chap. '60. 20. 'This is as the waters of Noah unto 'me, as I have ſworn that the waters of Noah 'ſhall no more go over the earth; ſo have I 'ſworn that I will not be wroth with thee nor rurn 'away from thee to do thee good.' O how good haſt thou been to me a poor misbelieving ſinner! O may I not humbly ſay, O Lord, I am devoted to thy fear, and have the heritage of thoſe that fear thy name?

I deſire, O Lord this day thro' the aid and aſſiſtance of thy holy Spirit, and under a deep ſenſe of thy great goodneſs to me, to make a full reſignation of myſelf unto thee the Lord my God; O let me find grace in thy ſight, and the aſſiſtance and conduct of thy holy Spirit. Show me now thy acceptance and approbation, that ſo the remembrance and ſweet ſenſe of what is now tranſacting betwixt thee and my ſoul, may embolden me to truſt with confidence in the Lord Jeſus, and help me to meet my redeemer at my laſt hours with faith and affections love and delight O ſave me from the deceit of my wicked heart, diſcover hypocriſy, and what I know not teach thou me. O ſave me from deluſion; let my evidences be kept clear againſt my laſt hours. I appeal to thee the ſearcher of hearts, that I am heartily willing, without any known guile, to accept of the Lord Jeſus Chriſt for my Lord and lawgiver to rule and inſtruct me, as well as to ſave me; I accept of and take thy holy law for the rule of my life and way to happineſs. O let

me be preſerved from the infectious air of the ſinful time wherein my lot is fallen I accept of Chriſt on any terms, only let thy grace be ſufficient for me in all my difficulties and trials. O Lord, if thou ſhalt ſee good to call me to ſuffer and witneſs for the cauſe of truth and religion, O grant me ſuffering diſpoſitions and qualifications, that ſo I may never deny thy truths which I now profeſs, but ſtand to them as they are contained in the Old and New Teſtament. O Lord, I engage in thy ſtrength to be for thee and not for another, and upon the bended knees of my ſoul † and body I join myſelf and engage in a marriage covenant with thee. O let this poor offering be accepted, and let thy preſence manifeſt this to my ſoul I ſolemnly engage, in thy ſtrength, to do and to be for thee in my day and generation, according to my ſphere and capacity, and thou I plead wouldſt beſtow upon me light, life and ſpirituality for duty, that I may ſerve thee with cheerfulneſs and alacrity; for alas! I am ſubject to much dullneſs and deadneſs of ſpirit, and my heart is deſperately wicked and full of deceit; I ſeldom find it where I leave it. O Lord I put this worthleſs heart of mine into thine own hand; do thou keep it, and renew it, and poſſeſs it, and caſt every thing out of it that is diſagreeable to thy holy Spirit to dwell with. I take heaven and earth

† By the knees of the ſoul muſt be underſtood humility.

and my own conſcience to witneſs, that I this day dedicate myſelf to thee and to thy ſervice, both ſoul and body in time thro' eternity; O give the witneſs of thy holy Spirit in token of thy acceptance. I again heartily accept of the bleſs'd offer of Chriſt Jeſus as my prophet, prieſt and king; and I call heaven to record upon my conſcience, and theſe lines to witneſs, that with all my ſoul, and with all my ſoul, and with all my ſtrength I do take thee for my only up-making portion in time and thro' eternity; and thy Son Jeſus Chriſt as the only new and living way through which poor ſinners may have acceſs to the throne of thy grace, with humble hopes to obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need In this way I will venture my everlaſting all, in token I am well pleaſed with the bleſſed device of ſalvation thro' Chriſt the Redeemer. O Lord, do thou bring down the power of indwelling ſin in my ſoul, ſubdue my predominant luſts, and bow my will to thine. Make me more holy in life and practice that the image of my Saviour may appear more in me, and that my life and converſation may evidence that I am no more my own but thine. Lord, whatever in thy providence thou may think fit to tryſt me with in this preſent world, may I have thee as my covenanted God to run to, and may I be owned of thee as thy covenanted child, and be ſtill under thy protecting favour. Let me have daily renewed diſcoveries of redeeming and diſtinguiſhing love for my

more comfortable thro'-bearing, O make it appear, that not only poor worthleſs I have covenanted with thee, but that thou in thy infinite love haſt graciouſly condeſcended to make an everlaſting covenant with ſinful me, ordered in all things and ſure: Lord, this is all my ſalvation and all my deſire. I am willing to be denyed to the profits and pleaſures of this world, that I may have communion with the bleſſed Trinity above. I am willing thou diſpoſe of me for thy own glory. O keep my evidences clear againſt my laſt hours. Lord, ratify in heaven what is done here upon earth; and in the faith that thou wilt be forth-coming according to my need, I ſubſcribe myſelf to be the Lord's with my hand.

At Ayr, the 20th of April, 1723. Mary Somervel.

OBSERVATION V.

O Hear a paſſage of God's great condeſcenſion to me a poor afflicted ſinful worm! He hath ſhewn to me ſuch pity as a tender hearted father to his ſickly child.

Upon a Saturday's night before the ſacrament in Ayr (at which time I was much afflicted with my ſore foot) I retired myſelf into a corner of the church-yard, for prayer and meditation, becauſe I had no proper place of retirement at home, on account of another woman that reſided with me. The night was wet,

and ſeemed to continue ſo; but I wrapped my head in my mantle, and laid me down amongſt the graves to cover me from the rain, or any thing that might diſturb me; and I muſt ſay, that I had ſweet refreſhment from the preſence of the Lord, whereby my ſoul was ſweetly enlarged, and my bands looſed. Amongſt the ſilent company of the dead I was converſing with the living, until the ſhades of night ſtole upon me ere I was aware. I thought the kirk port would not be ſoon locked this night, becauſe of the preparation and ordering of the kirk for the ſacrament; and I being ſome conſiderable time there after night fell, did not know what time of the night it was: but when I came to the port I found it faſt locked, and there was no perſon about the church. Then I thought with myſelf, how ſhall I get out? I cannot get over the dyke becauſe of my ſore foot. Then I took a little turn under the pen, not knowing what to do, or how to get home, and as I walked to and fro, I looked towards the port, and behold the little door, which I had found faſt locked, opened to me of its own accord, † ſo I had free paſſage This I thought was no ſmall token of God's great con-

† This incident appears ſomewhat miraculous, and is ſimilar to the opening of the priſon doors to Peter. The only doubt that can remain is, whether ſhe might not be miſtaken as to the port being locked: however ſhe ſays ſhe found it ſo, and told it afterwards to many perſons who no doubt would query her particularly about it, and ſet before her the poſſibility of a miſtake

deſcenſion to poor unworthy me. This I could not but remark and keep in memory. The church-yard was ſtill the pleaſant place of delight to me where I wanted not matter of meditation and conſolation of the holy Spirit, by diſcoveries of the ſufferings and death of glorious Chriſt, and how he was laid in the grave to ſweeten it to believers; there the wicked ceaſe from troubling, and there the weary are at reſt. Sometimes I appealed to God, who knew my heart, that I was both wearied with ſin, and wearied of ſin, and alſo wearied with a weighty clog of a ſick and weakly body; ſo that through manifold infirmities and the diſquiet of my fleſh, I have been made to rore: yet I muſt witneſs in favours of affliction that it is the air wherein Chriſt ſweetly breathes; for he is a ready help to me in my great need. Neither ought I to overlook this ſingular inſtance of his condeſcenſion and love to me, when I was locked in the church-yard, in a dark night, and could think upon no method of getting out, the holy ONE ſhould ſhew ſuch care of, and pity towards me as to unbolt the port by his own immediate hand, and ſet me at liberty.

He alſo ſhewed me, he would ſet before me an open door that no man can ſhut; and bade me in theſe words, (Pſal. 22. 22.) 'Declare 'and make known my name unto my bre-

which if ſhe apprehended, upon reflection, ſhe would no doubt have ſuppreſſed it.

thren:' So I leave it on record to the glory of his bleſſed name. To him be the praiſe. Amen and Amen.

Mary Somervel.

OBSERVATION VI.

I Remember in the year 1728 I was under more than ordinary deadneſs and dejection of mind before the ſacrament in Ayr. I may ſay with the ſpouſe' I ſought him but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no anſwer; I looked for him on the right hand and left hand, but could not perceive him; my diſtreſs was great, and my meat and ſleep were not refreſhful to me. But when I ſet a day apart for humiliation and prayer with one of my Chriſtian acquaintances, and going about duty, the Lord was graciouſly pleaſed to give me inlightening, reviving and enlargement of heart and ſoul in prayer, and from that day to our ſolemnity, to the praiſe of his bleſſed name be it told. The ſolemn day was a day of ſweet refreſhing from the preſence of the Lord to my ſoul, eſpecially at the Lord's table. I being at the firſt table, Mr. Hunter preached on theſe words, 2 Cor. 6. 2. 'For he ſaith, I have heard 'thee in a time accepted, and in a day of ſalva-'tion have I ſuccoured thee. Behold, now is 'the accepted time, behold now is the day of 'ſalvation.' Now my heart was melted as the 'wax with the joyful news of ſalvation and griet for ſin; for I thought I had faith to believe

it to be a day of ſalvation to me and ſome others which was like life to the dead. Then came that word with great ſweetneſs, 'It is the voice of my 'Beloved; behold he cometh leaping 'over the mountains, and ſkipping on the hills. And as the ſpouſe ſaith, 'My beloved ſpake 'and ſaid unto me 'Riſe up, my love my fair 'one, and come away; for, lo, the winter is 'paſt, the rain is over and gone, the flowers 'appear in the earth, the time of ſinging of 'birds is come, and the fig-tree putteth forth 'her green figs, and the vines with the tender 'grapes give a good ſmell. Ariſe, my love, 'my fair one, and come away. 'Alſo that 'word came, 'My beloved is like a roe or a 'young hart upon the mountains of Bether.' At this time I had great ſorrow for ſin, and alſo much joy and peace in believing † That 'word came, Put thy finger into the print of 'the nails, and reach hither thy hand, and 'thruſt it into my ſide, and be not faithleſs but 'believing;' which ſet me a muſing upon the condeſcending love of God to me a poor misbelieving Thomas; and laying hold on Chriſt, as it were with a trembling hand, that word

† The diſpoſitions, tho' ſeemingly oppoſite, are perfectly conſiſtent in the heart of a believer, and may be conſidered as a diſtinguiſhing evidence of a renewed heart: for as there can be no evangelical ſorrow for ſin but what ariſes from a believing view of the atonement; ſo none can have a proper view of the atonement without having more or leſs of joy and peace in believing.

came with great ſweetneſs, It is I myſelf, 'handle me and ſee, for a ſpirit hath not fleſh 'and bones as ye ſee me have.' In this exerciſe my weak nature was like to be overcome; ſo that I had much a-do to keep myſelf from the notice of others. Then came that word Song 2. 5. 'Stay me with flaggons, comfort me 'with apples; for I am ſick of love.' Yea, I muſt ſay it to his praiſe, that in the banqueting houſe his banner over me was love He that is mighty hath done great things for me, and holy is his name.

There being a ſacrament ſome miles from the town, I entreated the Lord to ſhew me if I was to go to it, having ſuch a weak and ſickly body and ſubject to faintings, I earneſtly beſought the Lord to ſtrengthen me; for unleſs his gracious and ſtrengthning preſence went with me I could not go, leſt I ſhould diſturb others and be a burden to myſelf. Then the Lord ſhewed me he would be with me and ſtrengthen me, he would help and uphold me with the right hand of his righteouſneſs, and that therefore I needed not fear; Yet ſometimes misbelief would prevail notwithſtanding the promiſe; then that confirming word came, 'He is not ſlack concerning his pro-'miſe;' for he hath confirmed it with his oath; his preſence ſhall go with thee, and he will fortify thee againſt thy trouble, take hold of his ſtrength and be thou ſtrong.

At another time, when I was enquiring of the Lord if I ſhould go to the ſacrament in our

neighbour congregation, then that return came, Iſa. 55. 1. 'Come ye to the waters.' But then I ſaid, O Lord, how can I come ſo dead, lifeleſs, unprepared and every way unfit? Then came that return, 'Come without 'money and without price,' with the rope about thy neck. O ſtupenduous free grace. Bleſſed be God who hath not turned away my prayer nor his mercy from me.

Mary Somervel.

OBSERVATION VII.

I Remember once upon our preparation Sabbath before the ſacrament, Mr M'Dorment ran upon a very threatning ſtrain, which indeed was not his ordinary, for he wont rather to be the Son of Conſolation. This cauſed a great ſtir and confuſion in the breaſts of the more ſerious, and ſome of them went and told him of it, as thinking they could not go forward to the Lord's table. As for me, I thought I was cut off from all title, for I was ſhaken looſe of all grips that ever I had of Chriſt or the promiſes; my fleſh and heart were like to fail, ſo that I imagined I would have been to carry out of the church. But O glory be to God who came ſpeedily for my relief, and was a preſent help to me in the time of my great need; for all on a ſudden that ſcripture came with great power and life to my ſoul, 2 Sam. 23. 5. 'Altho' my houſe be not

ſo with God,' that word came at the back of it, 'Altho' my *heart* be not ſo with God, yet 'he hath made with *thee* an everlaſting cove-'nant, ordered in all things and ſure.' By this I was ſtrengthned and refreſhed, and the return of my heart and ſoul was, O Lord, may I humbly ſay, this is all my ſalvation and all my deſire. A ſong of praiſe was put into my mouth, to him that loved me and hath waſhed me in his own blood: to him be the glory and to him be the praiſe. Alſo that word came Pſal. 22. 22. 'Declare my name 'unto my brethren' and while I muſed upon the import of the place, it was returned a ſecond time, 'Make known my name unto my 'brethren.' This word was often born in upon my mind after ſingular manifeſtations, whereby I gathered that it was the Lord's mind I ſhould publiſh and declare his condeſcending goodneſs to my ſoul: But being much aſſaulted with fears of hypocriſy and deluſion, I could not be perſuaded that it was my duty. Therefore it was often my petition at the throne of grace, O Lord when ſhall the queſtion be put out of queſtion? Have I a right to the promiſes of the covenant of grace? If I have, let me have clear diſtinguiſhing marks and evidences of this that no hypocrite can attain unto I cry'd, O Lord, how long wilt thou hide thy face? I cannot think to live any longer in an unclear ſtate, and far leſs to die in it; the very thoughts of which is like a double death to me. O praiſe be to

my Redeemer that heard my requeſt, and gave me that ſweet anſwer. 'Thou art choſen 'in him before the foundation of the world:' alſo he ſhewed the ſecret of his covenant.

This night was like a ſpring-tide of manifeſtations of the love of God to poor ſinful me. After I had gone to bed, my heart was led out to prayer, meditation and admiration of the love of God. Sometimes my weak body (which was newly recovered from ſickneſs) would fain have taken reſt, but could not. Then I ſat up and prayed again and again, thinking I had omitted ſomething in prayer, and thus I continued till the morning light came, when I turned a little drouſy; as my eye-lids were going to cloſe, I thought the likeneſs of a tender hand touched mine head; at which I cry'd, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? Then it was returned, as a man ſpeaketh to his friend 'Declare my name un-'to my brethren,' and a ſecond time that word came, 'Make known my name unto my bre-'thren, by declaring what I have done for 'thee.' O this was a ſweet time of giving and receiving, a time of covenanting with God for time and eternity! As I lay in my bed wondering and admiring at the love of God, it was ſaid to me as it had been whiſpered in mine ears, 'Riſe up and put on thy orna-'ments and adorn thyſelf, for God is with 'thee.' Then I aroſe and put on my clothes, being filled with words love and praiſe, and going about prayer with a full gale of the ſpi-

it, it was ſaid to me, O woman greatly beloved, great is thy faith, be it unto thee even as thou wilt. This put me into a little ſurpriſe, becauſe I was always fearing I had not true faith. And when I ſet about writing theſe things, the enemy always ſuggeſted to me, that vain-glory was my only motive, to this my timorous and miſgiving heart ſoon aſſented; and fearing it might really be the caſe, I ſet down but a few things inſtead of the whole, by which I grieved the ſpirit of God, ſo that he hid his face from me, and I became as dead as a ſtone Then I was ſore troubled, and with all ſincere and earneſt deſire I addreſt the throne of his great grace imploring his mercy, and pleading that he would ſhew me the reaſon and particular cauſe wherefore he was withdrawn I ſaid I would take it as a further token of his love, and a confirmation of what had paſt betwixt him and my ſoul if he would grant me my preſent requeſt. Then that return came very clear, as a man ſpeaketh to his friend, 'It is becauſe thou haſt not e-'nough made known my name, according to 'the large meaſure I have beſtowed on thee, 'but waſt rather on the reſerved hand.' Then after this I wrote at large the manifold teſtimonies, tokens and pledges of the love of God to me, a poor misbelieving creature.

O let God bleſſed be,
Who turned not my prayer from him,
nor yet his grace from me.

Mary Somervel.

OBSERVATION VIII.

I Have often times remarked, that when I omitted to pray for Zion, I would have been dead and dull in prayer; but when I remembred Zion and her afflicted mourners, I seldom, if ever, miss'd the assistance of the spirit in a way of fervour, life and spirituality.

I remember one night my sleep departed from me, and could get no rest, but tossed to and fro in my bed, then I enquired of the Lord of the cause, and that return came by way of fatherly reproof. 'And wouldst 'thou sleep when Zion's calamities are so great 'and the burden bearers so few.' Then came that word also, 'The rubbish is great, and the 'burden-bearers are few, and the strength of 'the burden-bears is decayed.' Neh. 4 10. This made me very low in mine own eyes; O what am I! I am a little worth burden bearer. O Lord how lamentable is it, that Zion hath so few of all the children she hath brought up to take her by the hand, or afflict themselves with her afflictions? Many a time it has been a heavy load upon my spirits to think of the disaffection and deadness of this age and generation, and of which, alas! I myself had too great a share: Yet I can say, that I never found it go better with me in prayer, than when I laid out myself to be concerned for others Lord I may humbly say, I have loved the habitation

of thy houſe, and the place where thine honour dwelleth.

One day, about ten o'clock in the forenoon, I was greatly impreſt with a ſpiritual and lively frame, an extraordinary gale of the ſpirit from on high came upon me with power and life, and filled every corner of my heart, and awakened and moved all my affections heaven-ward. I was preſſed in ſpirit to go to my knees and pray; but when I went to ſhut the door, ſatan and my wicked heart aſſaulted me, and ſuggeſted that ſome body would be ſeeking me, that ſome of my acquaintances which lived out of the town had ſomething to ſay to me. and therefore I ought to defer prayer till near night. But O eternal praiſe, and bleſſing and glory be to God in Chriſt, who ſuffered me not to yield to this temptation of the enemy; for there came ſuch a bright beam of the ſpirit with light, power and light upon my ſoul and heart, that the love of God in Chriſt conſtrained me to my knees. O that I could bleſs his name for ever for the large manifeſtations of his unſpeakable love to my ſoul! that day and the next day, and for a conſiderable time after this, I might ſay with the Pſalmiſt, He made my feet ſwift as the hinds, 'and ſet me on my high places, and the ſhield 'of his ſalvation he did on me beſtow; his 'right hand held me up, and he eſtabliſhed my goings.' Then I rejoiced with joy unſpeakable in the humble hope that ere long I ſhould ſing forth the praiſes of my God in the

higher houſe, where I ſhall do it to better purpoſe, when freed from this body of ſin and ſuffering.

I declare to the glory of God, that this day was a day of great things, a day of good things, a day of great manifeſtations of the love of God in Chriſt to poor unworthy me; yea, the greateſt that ever I had all my life. There were as it had been ſhowers of bleſſings poured down upon my ſoul. My heart which was dead and barren, became like a watered garden, green, fragrant, lively and fervent in prayer and meditation on the love of God for many days after. I had both my preſent and ſuſpended petitions anſwered to the ſweet comfort and eſtabliſhment of my ſtaggering ſoul. My petitions that were depending for Zion, and ſome near relations and Chriſtian friends, had at this time ſatisfying and ſenſible returns. I was admitted to near and intimate fellowſhip with the Father and with his Son Jeſus Chriſt. My evidence for heaven and eternal life were clear for a conſiderable time without a cloud, which was no ſmall cordial to my poor drooping ſoul. The golden ſceptre was holden forth to me, and I was allowed to draw near and touch it. It was likewiſe ſaid to me, 'Fear not, Mary, I have heard thy 'prayers, I have ſeen thy tears, thy requeſt 'ſhall be granted to the whole of the king-'dom, for Myſelf is made over unto thee, 'ſaith the Lord.' O that word, Myſelf is 'made over unto thee' filled me with wonder

nd praiſe, and made me cry out, O what am
, and what is my father's houſe, that the Lord
ſhould be ſo kind, as to manifeſt his bountiful
ove in ſuch a manner to a poor worm ſuch as
: yea, I for ever will thee praiſe becauſe
hou haſt done this.

As for the petitions I formerly put up in order to be clear'd about my own ſtate, whether I was a child of God or an hypocrite, I received a return in theſe confirming ſcriptures, Ezek. 36. 25, 26, 27. 'I will ſprinkle clean 'water upon you, and ye ſhall be clean from 'all your filthineſs, and from all your idols 'will I cleanſe you: a new heart will I give 'you and a new ſpirit: I will take away the 'heart of ſtone, I will give you an heart of 'fleſh; I will put my ſpirit within you, and 'cauſe you to walk in my ſtatutes, and keep 'my judgments and do them I will be your 'God, and ye ſhall know me, ſaith the Lord.' Iſa. 54. 9, 10. 'For this is as the waters of 'Noah unto me: for as I have ſworn that the 'waters of Noah ſhall no more go over the 'earth, I have alſo ſworn that I will not be 'wroth with thee nor turn away from thee to 'do thee good: for the mountains ſhall depart, 'and the hills be removed, but my kindneſs 'ſhall not depart from thee, ſaith the Lord, 'neither ſhall the covenant of my peace be re-'moved.' Heb. 6. 18. That by two immutable 'things, in which it was impoſſible for God to 'lie, we might have a ſtrong conſolation who 'have fled for refuge to lay hold on the hope

'ſet before us; which hope we have as an an
'chor of the ſoul.' &c. Iſa. 60. 20. 'Th
'ſun ſhall no more go down; for the Lord ſhal
'be thine everlaſting light, and the days o
'thy mourning ſhall be ended, and thy God
'ſhall be thy glory.' O Let God bleſſed be
Verily he is a God that heareth and anſwereth
prayer, and that my ſoul knoweth right well.

I remember at the communion table that
word came, 'Death is yours; all things are
'yours.' But being afraid of my deceiving
heart, and a deluding devil, I could ſcarce re-
ceive the conſolation, till it was backed by theſe
words, 'Sin ſhall not have dominion over you;
'The God of peace ſhall bruiſe ſatan under
'your feet, and you ſhall be a conqueror, and
'more than a conqueror thro' him that hath
'loved you, and waſhed you in his own blood.'
Now I was as it were ſhamed out of my mis-
belief with his great condeſcending love.

But now the mournful caſe of Zion came
before me, and I was much preſſed in ſpirit on
her behalf, ſo that I could not enjoy the com-
fort of my everlaſting and eternal happineſs,
until the Lord would be pleaſed to ſhew me
what he would do for poor afflicted Zion. At
this time I was very importunate with the Lord
on her behalf. It was often my petition at
the throne of grace, Lord, ſhew wherefore
thou contendeſt, and ſeemeſt to withdraw, yea,
in a great meaſure has already withdrawn from
our land, and from thy church and houſe which
is builded for thy name. Lord haſt thou not

id in thy word, when ye make prayer and pplication toward this houſe, ‡ I will hear in eaven and forgive. But, alas! we have mul-plied tranſgreſſions againſt thee, O Lord and hou haſt covered thyſelf with a cloud that our rayers paſs not through. It has been oft my equeſt at the throne of grace, that God would e pleaſed to return to Zion with his wonted vour and glory, and ſhine on her tabernacles s in former days. Zion's concerns lay ſo eavy upon me, that I cry'd with tears, O ord, ſuſpend the comfort of the cleared-up vidence of my eternal well being in the life to ome, until it come with the evidence that Zion hall be reſtored again into favour and friend-hip with her God. This day was a day of ſking and receiving indeed; I had preſent and former petitions anſwered for Zion and for myſelf, ſo that whatſoever my ſoul deſireth was granted, and nothing kept back but one hing about Zion; as for myſelf, there was more given, than what I could either have asked or thought upon, which ought to be kept in re-

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‡ The temple of old was the appointed place of worſhip, whither the tribes of Iſrael were to reſort: And as the cymbol of the Lord's preſence reſided there in a peculiar manner, the people of Iſrael, when at a diſtance, were enjoined to direct their prayers towards this houſe. But under the new Teſtament our prayers are not directed towards any temple made with hands; for the way into the holieſt of all is now made manifeſt, even heaven itſelf, whether our forerunner hath for us entered, and we have acceſs into it thro' the vail of Chriſt's fleſh, when worſhipping in ſpirit and in truth.

membrance as matter of praiſe to God while
live.

As concerning that petition, that the Lor
would be pleaſed to ſhew wherefore he con
tended with, and ſeemed to have withdraw
from our land, that return came. It is becauſ
of the buried and born down covenanted-wor
of reformation, which is now trodden unde
foot, and not mourned for, this has provoke
the Lord to withdraw Alſo, thus ſaith th
Lord, 'I will avenge the quarrel of a broke
'covenant. He hath ſhewn that he hath
'controverſy with the inhabitants of this land
'becauſe there is no truth, nor mercy, no
'knowledge of God in this land, by ſwearin
'and lying, and ſtealing, and killing, and com
'mitting adultery: they break out, and bloo
'toucheth blood; therefore becauſe of thi
'ſhall the land mourn, ſaith the Lord.' Hoſ
4. 2. Alſo when I was intreating the Lord fo
this land. and for our mother church, that re
turn came, 'Aſk me of things to come con
'cerning my ſons, and concerning the work
'of my hands, command ye me, Iſa 45. 11. O
matchleſs condeſcending love! But alas! thi
land, this land has a ſore blaſt to endure, the
'Lord hath pronounced a three fold wo againſt
'it,' Wo, wo, wo, to the inhabitants of thi
'land, ſaid the Lord, becauſe of the overſpread
'ing abominations that are in it.' Alſo the
Lord hath ſaid he will be avenged on ſuch a nation
as this. Then I addreſt the throne of grace
with tears and ſupplication, that God would be

aſed to return to Zion with wonted power
d glory, and repair her breaches, and ſhine
her tabernacles as in former days. I took
ld of that word, 'Aſk me of things to come,'
d earneſtly entreated the Lord upon his own
ord to ſhew what he would do in time to
me for poor diſtreſſed Zion. I was greatly
engthened at this time in pleading, and ſo
larged, that I would not be put off without
me ſatisfying returns; I cryed out as Abra-
am did, Oh! Let not the Lord be angry for I
ave taken upon me to ſpeak unto the Lord.
Then the Lord gave me a manifeſtation both
f preſervation and deſtruction. The Lord
aid, 'The land muſt be purged of great abo-
minations; but when the deſtroying angel
goeth thro' the land, I will ſprinkle the lin-
tel and door poſts of Zion with the blood of
the covenant, ſaith the Lord. I will ſay to
the man with the writer's inkhorn by his ſide.
'Set a mark on them that ſigh and cry for all
'the abominations of the land.' Then came
that word, 'Zion ſhall enjoy her Sabbaths.'
Alſo the Lord ſaid, 'When I have purged the
'land of great abominations, I will return
'to Zion, to her that ſat ſolitary; I will bring
'back her captivity as the ſprings in the ſouth:
'I will appoint unto them that mourn in Zion,
'to give them beauty for aſhes, and the oil of
'joy for mourning, and the garment of praiſe
'for the ſpirit of heavineſs,' Iſa. 61. 3. Again
I cryed, O Lord, be entreated to ſhew yet more
what thou wilt do for poor diſtreſs'd and afflict-

ed Zion: O Lord, be not angry with me, tho
I have now taken upon me to ſpeak unto thee,
O ſhew yet more confirming ſcriptures con-
cerning what thou wilt do in time to come for
thy church and intereſt, that I may rejoice in
her joy, as I do weep in her afflictions. Then
came that return, 'She ſhall again rejoice as
'in the days of her youth.' The other return
was, 'The buried and born down covenant-
'ed work of reformation, ſhall yet have a
'glorious reſurrection, ſaith the Lord, then
'ſhall Zion flouriſh and grow up as willows
'by the water courſes, and as a tree planted
'by the rivers of waters; and ſhe ſhall forget
'the days of her mourning, and ſhall be a gar-
'den incloſed unto me, ſaith the Lord. I will
'take her by the hand and comfort her, and
'ſhe ſhall be a name of praiſe.' Now my
heart began to warm with gratitude at the con-
deſcending love of God; yet I was earneſtly
pleading with God if it might conſiſt with his
glory and my good, that he would yet pleaſe
to give but one ſcripture or two more for con-
firming the truth of what was already given;
but being greatly afraid leſt I ſhould offend, I
ery'd out, Oh let not the Lord be angry, for I
have now taken upon me to ſpeak unto the
Lord, and I will ſpeak but this once more.
Then that return came, 'I will put a new ſong
'in her mouth, even praiſe to her God.' The
other return was, 'I will raiſe up one to ſtand
'in the gape, to turn away wrath, ſaith the
'Lord; and he ſhall be a great one; and I will

'be a wall of fire round her, and the glory in 'the midſt thereof. Then ſhall Zion's chil-'dren be glad in their King.' A catalogue of ſweet promiſes indeed! O for ever bleſſed be God. My ſoul is comforted; this is part of my joy and crown, to live and die in the faith that Zion ſhall be builded again, and made beautiful and glorious as in former days; when ſhe is come out of the furnace ſhe will ſhine forth as the morning. It is a cordial and comfort to my poor drooping ſoul, to think that the covenanted work of reformation ſhall have a glorious reſurrection as the Lord hath ſaid, and to him be the praiſe.

Now I returned to addreſs the throne of grace for myſelf, and earneſtly pled that God would be pleaſed to give the crowning comfort, even the comfortable evidence of my everlaſting well-being in token and teſtimony that I have had as real and ſenſible communion with him, as I can attain to, or expect here on earth, that I might keep this by me for a cordial to my poor ſin ſick ſoul as long as I live, and at death hold it out as the woman did the ſcarlet line †. I promiſed to the Lord on the knees of my ſoul and body, that if he would pleaſe

† An aſſured ſenſe of the love of God is beſtowed by the Spirit as the comforter, who gives the earneſt of the inheritance, and makes the believer's joy full: as the Spirit gives this divine enjoyment, ſo he only can make it to abide and remain. If the Spirit withdraw or ſuſpend his influence in this reſpect, no reflection on, or remembrance of paſt ex-

to give ſome more confirming ſcriptures and evidences of his unchangeable love to my ſoul, I would leave it on record to his glory. The return was given, 'Thy ſuit is accepted, 'thy requeſt is granted.' That word came, 'It is the voice of my beloved, behold he 'cometh leaping over the mouutains, and skip-'ping on the hills.' Song 2. 8. And that word came, 'Daughter, be of good cheer, thy ſins 'are forgiven thee.' Alſo that ſcripture came, 'When I paſſed by thee and ſaw thee, thy time 'was a time of love. I ſware unto thee and en-'tered into covenant with thee, and thou be-'cameſt mine, ſaith the Lord.' Ezek. 16. 8. 'As my covenant ſtands with day and night, 'ſo ſhall my covenant ſtand with thee, ſaith 'the Lord: Yea, (more to confirm thee) as 'the ordinances of heaven ſtandeth, and as 'ſun and moon doth laſt.' Then I cryed out with tears, Oh Lord, the ſun and moon laſt but in time Then it was returned as a man ſpeak-eth to his friend, 'Thus ſaith the Lord, as the

periences can never give ſatisfaction or reſtore the enjoyment any more than the remembrance of a former feaſt will fill an empty ſtomach Former experiences may indeed afford ſome rational grounds from whence we may argue, or coldly deduce the love of God; but O what a difference is there betwixt the lifeleſs concluſion of a ſyllogiſm, and that of taſting that the Lord is gracious: No paſt enjoyment can ſupport a perſon in the view of death, unleſs it be renewed or ratified and confirm'd by ſomething preſent: in this ſenſe therefore we may underſtand the above ſentence.

' ordinances of heaven ſtandeth, and as ſun and ' moon doth laſt thro' the ages of time; ſo ſhall ' my covenant ſtand with thee thro' the ages ' of eternity.' Alſo that word came Pſal. 89. 34. ' My covenant I will not break nor alter ' the thing that is gone out of my mouth.' All which was follow'd by this queſtion, ' Doſt thou now believe?' John 10. 31.

By this time I was 'ſhamed out of my misbelief; my ſoul was raviſhed within me, ſo that I cry'd out, O the height and the depth, the length and the breadth of the love of God to me a poor misbelieving Thomas! My faith was ſtrengthned, my love was inflamed; there were as it had been ſhowers of bleſſings pour-ed down, and my ſoul was ſo filled with a ſenſe of the love of God and the conſolations of the holy Ghoſt, as made me cry out, O Lord, I am but a clay veſſel, hold thine hand, for my weak and ſickly body is overcome.

I remember my wonted manner was to petition the Lord earneſtly, that he would pleaſe to ſcore out the old debt of ſin on the laſt day of the old year, and iſſue an act of indemnity. O the ſweet enlargement of ſoul that ſtill came at ſuch times. At this time it was returned, That an act of indemnity was paſs'd in the court of heaven, and my requeſt was granted. Alſo on the New-year's day's morning, (as my manner was) I beſought the Lord for a new token of his unchangeable love to my ſoul, and to get my old ſins blotted out, and that with the new year I might get new

love, new repentance, new obedience, new in-
clinations and new desires to be more holy in
life and practice. I besought the Lord to give
me my new-years gift from his own hand,
even whatever he saw most conducive to his
own glory and the good and comfort of my
soul. Then that return came, 'That I was
'gifted by the Father to the Son from all eter-
'nity.' Also it was returned, 'The act of in-
'demnity is sent forth, and the pardon is seal-
'ed with the broad seal of the King's ring,
'and blotted out with Christs precious blood,
'For ever blessed be the Lord, who turned
not my prayer from him, nor his grace from
me, I will praise thee for ever because thou hast
done this. O Lord this is part of my joy and
crown, that I have received such a love token
from thine hand. O my God, keep evidences
clear, and grant I may meet thee at my last
hours with this love token in mine hand, † for
thou wilt know thine own bond and seal: Now
I may humbly say, 'I know that my Redeem-
'er liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter
'day upon the earth, and that tho' the worms
'destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see
'God' O may I not now and at death sing
that triumphant song Rom 8 38 39. I am per-
swaded that neither death nor life nor angels
'nor principalities, nor powers, nor things pre-
'sent, nor things to come, nor height, nor
'depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to
'separate me from the love of God which is
'in Christ Jesus my Lord;' and by the help

of free grace, I will hold this confidence while the breath is in my body and do ſubcribe myſelf the Lord's with all my heart and hand.

At Ayr, the 4th and 5th of Sept. 1729. Mary Somervel.

OBSERVATION IX.

UPON Saturday evening, September 19th 1729, I was eating a bit of meat, part of which ſtuck ſo faſt in my breaſt that I could not get any thing down, but all came back again. Thus it remained all night. On the Sabbath morning when I aroſe, the uneaſineſs of my breaſt was increaſed; I betook myſelf, as uſual, to prayer and ſupplication, that the Lord would be pleaſed to help me from under my trouble, for no man could give me any relief; I had ſweet enlargement of heart and ſoul in prayer, and when I had done I tryed to drink ſome water, but in vain, for it had no acceſs into my ſtomach. Then I addreſs'd the throne of grace a ſecond time on the knees of my ſoul and body with great earneſtneſs, for I was afraid leſt this might be the inſtrument of carrying me off by a pining and lingering death. To call for a phyſician I thought was needleſs, becauſe it was within my breaſt, and nothing would go down. When I had ended prayer, I eſſayed again to drink water, but to no purpoſe, and though nature called for refreſhment, yet it was impoſſible to take it. I went to prayer a third time,

intreating the Lord that he would pleaſe to help me, and remove the ſtroke by which I was like to pine away at this time. I promiſed to the Lord, that if he would come for my relief I would ſhew it forth to his praiſe. So the Lord hearkened to my cry and anſwered my requeſt; for before I had ended prayer, the good and merciful God came with his powerful helping hand and relieved me from my diſtreſs. O ever bleſſed be his glorious name. So according to my promiſe I leave this on record to the honour and glory of his name.

Sept. 20th, 1729. Mary Somervel.

OBSERVATION X.

O Surely God is good to Iſrael, and to all that truſt in him! I can declare from my foreſaid experiences, that wiſdom's ways are ways of pleaſantneſs, and all her paths are peace. All the paths of the Lord hath dropped much ſweetneſs to my ſoul. I have been often revived and refreſhed both by word and ſacrament: the thouſandth part of his love to me cannot be told. In my great frailty when I was ſeldom able to attend public ordinances, my God vouchſafed his ſweet preſence in my poor cottage at home. My Sabbaths for ordinary were not dumb Sabbaths betwixt God and my ſoul; for ſometimes I had ſuch ſweet and clear diſcoveries of redeeming love as raviſhed my heart and ſoul, ſo that I longed greatly to be abſent from the body and preſent with the Lord; I groaned to be delivered from a weighty body

of ſin and death which clogged and pinion'd the wings of my ſoul, even as a bird, whoſe wings are clipped, lies flutteringon the ground. O when the candle of the word in the hand of the ſpirit, ſhineth into the dark corners of the heart, what a black catalogue of ſins then appears humbling the ſoul to the very duſt. Senſible of my immenſe load of guilt, I diſclaim all relief in myſelf or in any creature and rejoice in the complete atonement which is in Jeſus Chriſt. In my ſaddeſt caſe, I am bidden be of good cheer; for tho' my ſins be as ſcarlet and crimſon, they ſhall be made white as ſnow and wool. 'Come to me ye that 'labour and are heavy laden and I will give 'you reſt.' O how ſweet is that reſt which my ſoul hath found in Chriſt!

In the year 1735 and 1736, I was impreſt that I was not to live long: Sometimes I would be afraid at the proſpect of death, at other times there would be a mixture of joy and fear blended together in my mind: yet it was no ſmall cordial to my ſoul, that as at this time I was thro' frailty and ſickneſs unable to attend the publick ordinances of God in his houſe below, the Lord gave me great encouragement to believe that within a little I ſhou'd enjoy an eternal Sabbath of reſt with himſelf in the higher houſe. I cryed out, O how lovely is thy dwelling place, O Lord of Hoſts, to me! And I was bidden be of good cheer for ere long I ſhould behold the beauty of the higher houſe.

I have been often refreshed in christian conference and fellowship-meetings. The wiseman say's, Iron sharpneth Iron, so doth the face of a man his friend. When I was under great deadness and dulness of spirit I have found much benefit in attending the meeting, I scarcely ever miss'd to receive reviving and refreshing influences from the presence of the Lord which would continue some days thereafter. God has to none in our meeting been a barren wilderness or a land of drought: we found this word made good unto us, 'Where two or three 'are met together in my name, there am I 'in the midst of them.' We have often felt his remarkable presence, in so much that our love has been strengthned to God in Christ, and our diligence excited to run the ways of his commandments.

My dear Nephews and Nieces, may this encouragement excite you to this duty which is so helpful to keep up the life of religion and godliness, O taste and see that God is good, who trusts in him is blest.

O may I say without presumption, I am devoted to thy fear, I am thine, Lord, save thou me: when old and gray headed do not now forsake me. May I like Job be all the days of my appointed time waiting till my change come. O may I now and at death sing that triumphant song, Rom. 8. 38, 39 I am perswaded that 'neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, 'nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 'nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall 'be able to separate me from the love of God which is 'in Christ Jesus our Lord, and my covenanted God.' For ever blessed be his blessed name, and to him be the praise. *Amen, amen.*

Mary Somervel